

Coralville Lake Environmental Stewardship

A Master Plan is a stewardship driven, land use management document. It focuses on the operations and maintenance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) water resource project. As one of these projects, Coralville Lake has a Master Plan that conceptually establishes and guides the orderly development, administration, maintenance, preservation, enhancement and management of all natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the project.

Coralville Lake was authorized by Congress to provide flood control. Because the land was purchased for the purpose of flooding, it is protected from development. This protected land provides a haven for the native plants and animals that would have otherwise been displaced by agriculture or urbanization.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) owns a total of 24,591 acres of land within the Coralville Lake Project. This land, called “Fee Title” land includes 5 distinct habitats: forest, water, man dominated (cultivated or developed), wetland, and prairie habitats. The Corps manages 8,619 acres of the Fee Title land while the remaining 15,972 acres is managed by partnering organizations. In addition to the Fee Title land, the Corps also purchased the right to flood 10,321 acres of private land using what is called a Flowage Easement. Since this is only an easement over private property, no other management activities are authorized and will not be considered for other uses under this Master Plan revision.

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| Fee Title Land: | 24,591 acres |
| Flowage Easement Land: | 10,321 acres |

Fee Title Land by Habitat:

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| • Forest: | 9,862 acres |
| • Water: | 5,430 acres |
| • Man Dominated (cultivated or developed): | 4,406 acres |
| • Wetland: | 3,481 acres |
| • Prairie | 1,412 acres |

Fee Title Land by Management:

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| • U.S. Corps of Engineers: | 8,619 acres |
| • Iowa Department of Natural Resources | |
| Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area | 13,427 acres |
| Lake Macbride: | 1,118 acres |
| Lakeview Off-Highway Vehicle: | 147 acres |
| • Kirkwood Community College | |
| Atherton Memorial Wetland Area: | 735 acres |
| • University of Iowa | |
| Macbride Nature Recreation Area: | 456 acres |
| • Private Marinas (3) | 71 acres |
| • National Science Foundation: | 18 acres |



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Iowa has changed greatly since becoming a state in 1846. The prairies that helped develop the highly productive soils have been reduced by more than 99 percent. About 95 percent of the state's prairie pothole wetlands have been drained. Over half of the original forest has been lost. These changes and other factors such as channelization of streams and rivers, soil erosion, development and urban expansion and intensive row crop agriculture have contributed to the loss or degradation of suitable habitat for numerous plant and animal species.

Current Threats to Ecosystems:

- Urbanization and development of adjacent areas
- Invasive species
- Succession
- Siltation
- Off-road vehicle use in unauthorized areas
- Climate change

Fee Title Land Potentially Occurring Endangered/Threatened Species:

- Indiana Bat (*Myotis Sodalist*)
- Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene Ornata Ornate*)
- Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel (*Lampsilis Higginsi*)
- Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza Leptostachya*)
- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthaera Leucophaea*)

Current Management Practices Utilized on Fee Title Land:

- Timber stand improvement
- Reforestation
- Prairie management and reconstruction
- Wetland management and reconstruction
- Shoreline management:
 - Erosion control
 - Permits for private structures
- Wildlife management:
 - Bird blind
 - Nesting boxes
 - Special hunts
 - Food plots
- Invasive species management
- Prescribed fire management
- Education:
 - Devonian Fossil Gorge
 - Visitor Center
 - Classroom Programs
 - Campground Programs
 - Field Trips
 - Special Events
 - Publications

